

Separating with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand the lids of the lower eye (the child lying on his side), let a stream of the borax- or alum-water, mentioned above, from a sponge or cloth saturated with it run between them upon a folded towel previously placed under that side of the head, and repeat until the matter is all washed out. After the doctor comes attend carefully to his directions, and *carry them out to the letter day and night*, for in the bad cases of this disease eternal vigilance is the price of sight.

In all those eye troubles characterized by a dread of light, watering of the eyes, particularly on exposure, and pain, especially if it extend to the brow, temple, side of nose, and perhaps run up into the head, very important structures are almost surely involved and medical aid should be obtained without delay. Irreparable damage may result from waiting only a few days.

Elderly persons who observe rings or rainbows around the lamp, and who suffer from occasional attacks of dimness of sight, are threatened with a disease known to oculists as *glaucoma*. Should the dimness persist for twenty-four hours, especially if accompanied by pain in the eye or head, let not another day pass without obtaining skilled advice. The results of *prompt* treatment are among the most brilliant in surgery; absolute and hopeless blindness, often accompanied by great pain, is the consequence of neglect.

*Cataract* is the most common cause of curable blindness. It is simply a cloudiness or opacity of the crystalline lens, so that cataract is *in* the eye, not *on* it, as we often hear it said. It may occur at any time of life, but nearly always at the two extremes, being often congenital, but usually one of the results of age. A gradual failure of sight, presenting the peculiarity of being better in a dim than in a bright light, at twilight than in the middle of the day, is very suggestive—quite characteristic indeed of certain partial cataracts occurring in the young; but the nature of the disease is rendered certain by the appearance of the pupil, which, instead of being black as in health, is gray or white. The pupils of all old persons are somewhat grayish, from the natural hardening of the lens, but their sight is good. The blindness is relieved by the removal, by a delicate surgical operation, of the opaque lens; and such has been the progress in this branch of medicine that, taking the average, over 90 per cent. are restored to sight. It is peculiarly important that the cataract of infancy and childhood should be removed during that period of life, because by obstructing the light it prevents the development of the nervous apparatus of the eye from want of exercise. Neglect to have it done is the